

Remarks

The numbered paragraphs of the Office action are responded to through the corresponding numbered paragraphs below. The applicant has addressed each issue in turn and, for clarity, has provided a heading for each issue.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The Examiner provided the citation to 35 USC § 112. The applicant believes that no specific response is required for this paragraph.
2. The Examiner rejected claim 11 under 35 USC § 112 as being indefinite. The applicant has requested that claim 11 be cancelled. The applicant believes that this amendment and response is fully responsive to the rejection of this paragraph. The applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The Examiner provided the reference to sections in Title 35, US Code provided in the prior Office action.
4. The Examiner rejected claims 1-8 and 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thatcher et al., in view of Nagayama et al. and Warren et al. The applicant has requested that claim 1, on which claims 2-8 and 11-13 be amended to point out that applicant's invention includes a fluid bladder tank system which accommodates clean water, detergent and floor residue vacuumed from the squeegee to maintain the weight distribution of the scrubber / buffer machine. The applicant believes that none of the cited references, or any other known references disclose a single fluid bladder tank system as required to maintain the weight distribution of the machine during operation as

the quantities of clean water, detergent and floor residue changes. The applicant believes that this requested amendment in combination with the other features in claim 1 is neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited references either alone or in combination. The applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Response to Arguments

5. The Examiner noted that the applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-8 and 11-14 have been considered but were found to be "moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection." The applicant appreciates the Examiner's consideration and believes that no specific response is required for this paragraph.

Conclusion

6. The Examiner stated that applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection and that accordingly this action is made final. The applicant is responding to this final Office action with a Request for Continued Examination and fees. The applicant believes that this response is fully responsive to this final action and respectfully requests continued examination.

The Examiner has provided information concerning communication and/or inquiries concerning this case. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's willingness to communicate and assistance regarding this case and believes no response to this paragraph is necessary.

The applicant has requested that claim 11 be cancelled and that claim 1 be amended as previously described. The applicant believes that all issues and points of the Examiner's Office action have been addressed. Applicant believes that the pending

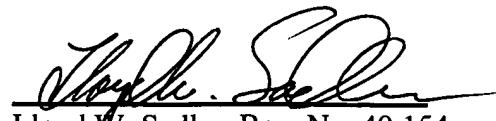
RCE Response/Amendment
App. S/N: 09/865,766
Attorney Docket No. 4313 P

RESPONSE TO FINAL OA
RCE, Response, Amendment

Examiner Theresa T. Snider
Group Art Unit: 1744
Confirmation No. 5765

claims 1-8 and 12-13 including the amended claim 1, are patentable over all known prior art. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted this 29th day of June, 2003.



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